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Security Council

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Letter dated 10 August 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 9 August 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 9 August 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (13 June-12 July 2000), there were approximately 22,700 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Troops of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in the theatre by means of ground and air patrols. Operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. On 25 June, SFOR troops in Prijedor (Multinational Division (MND) South-West) detained an individual, Dusko Sikirica, who had been indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.[1] Sikirica was subsequently transported to The Hague.

4. In anticipation of the fifth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre on 11 July, SFOR troops intensified reconnaissance and surveillance patrols in Bratunac and Srebrenica (MND North). The commemoration of the massacre by the Women of Srebrenica and affiliated organizations was conducted peacefully on 11 July.

5. Over the reporting period, SFOR also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable over the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. There were several isolated acts of violence, including an explosion near Derventa on 25 June, which destroyed a Catholic Church, and an explosion in a bar in Prijedor on 6 July. Neither incident resulted in casualties.

7. There were a number of small-scale demonstrations over the period. On 14 June, approximately 60 people blocked a road in Simin Han (MND North) to protest against an attempted eviction of Bosnian Serbs. The demonstration ended peacefully. Similarly, on 27 June, around 30 people blocked a secondary road near Brcko (MND North) in protest of the eviction of 13 Bosnian Serbs. SFOR troops monitored the situation and the demonstration ended peacefully.

8. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 159 military weapons storage site inspections. No violations were reported.

[1] Russia confirms its special position on this matter.

9. SFOR troops monitored 1,182 training and movement activities: 661 Bosnian Serb; 308 Bosniac; 90 Bosnian Croat; and 123 Federation. The training and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in force.

10. The fourth period of the summer demining season began on 3 July, with 45 demining teams in operation. To date this year, the demining teams have cleared mines and unexploded ordnance from 340,000 square metres of land.

Cooperation with international organizations

11. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

12. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in the establishment of joint institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a security dimension, in line with the Peace Implementation Council Ministerial Declaration of 23 May.

13. On 6 July, SFOR and IPTF spokesmen announced that the Republika Srpska's Special Police Forces, which operate within the Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry, had been reorganized and placed under civilian control, in line with requests from the international community. The responsibility for monitoring the work of the Special Police Forces was consequently transferred from SFOR to IPTF.

14. In response to requests from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, SFOR continued to support minority returnees and refugees over the period by delivering basic supplies. During the month of June, there were 1,630 returns of displaced persons and refugees, and 4,902 visits by displaced persons and refugees to their former homes.

15. On 20 June, the Republika Srpska temporarily suspended its participation in the work of the Vienna-based commission for the application of article IV of the Peace Agreement, relating to the subregional control of weapons in the former Yugoslavia. This suspension followed that of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the end of May. Although the remaining parties have expressed their desire to continue, the suspension will impose severe restrictions on accomplishments under article IV.

Outlook

16. Sporadic low-level violence is likely to continue, mainly in reaction to the return of refugees and displaced persons.